



ASSOCIATION of  
GOVERNMENTS

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## MEETING OF THE

# COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE, TIME  
and LOCATION**

**Thursday, May 8, 2008  
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Ontario Convention Center  
2000 E. Convention Center Way  
Ontario, CA 91764  
(909) 937-3000**

***(Directions to Convention Center Attached)***

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Jane Embry at 213.236.1826 or [embry@scag.ca.gov](mailto:embry@scag.ca.gov)

Agendas and Minutes for the Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee are also available at:

[www.scag.ca.gov/committees/cehd.htm](http://www.scag.ca.gov/committees/cehd.htm)

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. If you require such assistance, please contact SCAG at (213) 236-1868 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable SCAG to make reasonable arrangements. To request documents related to this document in an alternative format, please contact (213) 236-1868.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE  
ONTARIO CONVENTION CENTER  
2000 EAST CONVENTION WAY  
ONTARIO, CA 91764  
909.937.3000  
800.455.5755**

**FROM LOS ANGELES**

*Go East on Route 10  
Exit Vineyard Avenue, turn right  
Go to third light – Holt Blvd., turn left  
Go to first light – Convention Center Parking  
Follow appropriate signs*

**FROM ORANGE COUNTY:**

*Go North on Route 57  
Go East on Route 10  
Exit Vineyard Avenue, turn right  
Go to third light – Holt blvd., turn left  
Go to first light – Convention Center Parking  
Follow appropriate signs*

**FROM PALM SPRINGS**

*Go West on Route 10  
Exit Holt Blvd. to Convention Center on right hand side  
Corner of Convention Center Way and Holt Blvd.  
Follow appropriate signs*

**FROM SAN DIEGO:**

*Go North on Route 15  
Go West on Route 10  
Exit Holt Blvd. to Convention Center on right hand side  
Corner of Convention Center Way and Holt Blvd.  
Follow appropriate signs*

# Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee Membership

May 2008

*Jon Edney, Chair*  
*Larry McCallon, Vice-Chair*

*El Centro*  
*Highland*

## **Members**

Barnes, Christine  
Bayer, Anne  
Coerper, Gil  
Cortes-Moore, Bea  
Dubois, Diane  
Fesmire, Melanie  
Garcia, Joe G.  
Garcia, Ron  
Jahn, Bill  
Jasper, Timothy  
Lantz, Paula  
Lee, Laura  
Loveridge, Ronald  
Malsin, Scott  
McCullough, Kathryn  
McSweeney, Susan  
Mitchell, John D.  
Morehouse, Carl  
Mosca, Joseph  
Norby, Chris  
Nowatka, Paul  
Nunez, John H.  
Olhasso, Laura  
Perry, Jan  
Reyes, Ed  
Ring, Bob  
Robertson, Deborah  
Serrano, Joseph  
White, Charles

## **Representing**

La Palma  
Gateway Cities  
OCCOG  
SANBAG  
Gateway Cities  
CVAG  
SGVCOG  
OCCOG  
SANBAG  
Apple Valley  
Pomona  
Gateway Cities  
Riverside  
Westside Cities COG  
OCCOG  
Las Virgenes/Malibu COG  
SANBAG  
Ventura/VCOG  
SGVCOG  
Orange County  
Torrance  
SGVCOG  
Arroyo Verdugo  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles  
OCCOG  
Rialto  
Gateway Cities  
WRCOG

# COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

## AGENDA

### MAY 8, 2008

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TIME PG#

*The CEHD may consider and act upon any of the items listed on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as information or action items.*

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*(Hon. Jon Edney, Chair)*

2.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – Members of the public desiring to speak on items on the agenda, or items not on the agenda, but within the purview of the Council, must fill out and present a speaker's card to the Sr. Administrative Assistant prior to speaking. A speaker's card must be turned in before the meeting is called to order. The Community, Economic & Human Development Committee may consider and act upon any of the items listed on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The Chair may limit the total time for all comments to twenty minutes.

3.0 **REVIEW and PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

4.0 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

4.1 **Approval Items**

4.1.1 Minutes of April 3, 2008 Meeting

Attachment

5 min.

1

5.0 **ACTION ITEMS**

5.1 State of the Region Publication Schedule  
*(Ping Chang, SCAG Staff)*

Attachment

5 min.

7

Committee members will be asked to recommend a new publication schedule for the State of the Region Report, Report Card and guest essays.

**Recommended Action:** 1) Publish the State of the Region Report and Report Card every two years instead of annually; 2) Publish the guest essays separately on an annual basis.



# COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

## AGENDA

### MAY 8, 2008

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			<i>TIME</i>	<i>PG#</i>
5.2	<u>SB 375 (Steinberg) – Summary and Status</u> <i>(Jeff Dunn, SCAG)</i>	Attachment	10 min.	20

Staff will present summary of bill's provisions and status of on-going stakeholder discussions on the bill.

**Recommended Action:** Review summary of SB 375 and provide direction and guidance to staff on further actions, if any.

#### 6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1	<u>Housing Summit Advisory Committee Update</u> <i>(Hon. Kathryn McCullough)</i>	5 min.
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The Chair of the Housing Summit/Compass Blueprint Awards Advisory Committee will give a verbal summary of the committee's progress in preparation of the Housing Summit.

#### 7.0 CHAIR'S REPORT *(Hon. Jon Edney)*

Committee members will be asked to report on outside meetings that may have a relevance to policy areas of the CEHD.

#### 8.0 STAFF REPORT

#### 9.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Any Committee member or staff desiring to place items on a future agenda may make such a request.

#### 10.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee will be held on June 5-6, 2008, in conjunction with the 2008 Regional Council Retreat at the Pacific Palms Conference Center in the City of Industry.



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**COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
of the  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**April 3, 2008  
Minutes**

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Community, Economic & Human Development Committee held its meeting at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles.

**Members Present**

Barnes, Christine	City of La Palma
Bayer, Anne	Gateway Cities
Coerper, Gil	City of Huntington Beach
Cortes, Bea	SANBAG
Edney, Jon ( <b>Chair</b> )	City of El Centro/IVAG
Jasper, Timothy	City of Apple Valley
Lantz, Paula	City of Pomona
Loveridge, Ronald	City of Riverside
Malsin, Scott	Westside Cities COG
McCullough, Kathryn	OCCOG
Mitchell, John D.	SANBAG
Norby, Chris	Orange County
Nowatka, Paul	City of Torrance
Ring, Bob	OCCOG
Robertson, Deborah	City of Rialto
White, Charles	WRCOG

**Members Not Present**

Dubois, Diana	Gateway Cities
Fesmire, Melanie	CVAG
Garcia, Joe G.	SGVCOG
Garcia, Ron	OCCOG
Jahn, Bill	SANBAG
Lee, Laura	Gateway Cities
McCallon, Larry ( <b>Vice-Chair</b> )	City of Highland
McSweeney, Susan	Las Virgenes/Malibu COG
Morehouse, Carl	Ventura/VCOG
Mosca, Joseph	SGVCOG

**Members Not Present (Continued)**

Nunez, John H.	SGVCOG
Olhasso, Laura	Arroyo Verdugo
Palmer, Jim	OCCOG
Perry, Jan	Los Angeles
Reyes, Ed	Los Angeles
Serrano, Joseph	Gateway Cities

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Hon. Jon Edney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:25 AM and asked the Hon. Christine Barnes to lead the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Kevin Viera announced that WRCOG's General Assembly will be held on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Morongo Casino Resort & Spa. The keynote speaker will be George Stephanopoulos.

**3.0 REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no agenda reprioritizations.

**4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

**4.1 Approval Item**

**4.1.1 Minutes of March 6, 2008 Meeting**

A MOTION was made (Jasper) to approve the Consent Calendar. The MOTION was SECONDED (Coerper) and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

**5.1 Housing Summit Advisory Committee Update**

Hon. Gil Coerper announced that the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Housing Summit will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Mission Inn in Riverside. Hon. Jon Edney will be the moderator, and the focus will be on navigating the course of the uncertain housing market. Hon. Coerper requested the support of the Committee and asked that the members make a commitment to participate in the program.

**5.2 Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Update and Schedule**

Jacob Lieb, Program Manager for the RCP, stated that when this Committee approved release of the RCP in draft form at the December meeting, it also approved an outreach public participation program and schedule. Mr. Lieb stated that the outreach process is proceeding in two phases. The first is a lower level dialogue and discussion phase that will continue until the RTP is adopted in May. This phase will be primarily conducted through regional workshops. The first workshop was held on February 13<sup>th</sup> in San Bernardino and led by Hon. Jon Edney. Mr. Lieb said the workshops are designed to get staff out to locations

where SCAG events are not normally held and have different types of presenters and information. The next workshop will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Huntington Beach Public Library. Once the RTP is adopted, the second phase will begin, which will be a more intensive outreach process designed to ensure that the regions are familiar with the Plan and the policies it proposes.

Mr. Lieb stated that as a result of the Regional Council requesting separate EIRs for the RTP and RCP, and the delay in the adoption of the RTP, the schedule had to be revised. The environmental review process on the RCP will not begin until the RTP and its EIR are completed and certified. Mr. Lieb referred the Committee members to the schedule in their agenda packets and advised them to move each milestone back by one month. The adoption of the RCP is now slated for November 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **5.3**     SB 375 (Steinberg) – Summary of Legislative Developments

Jacob Lieb, Program Manager, and Jeff Dunn, Government Affairs Analyst, presented an update on SB 375. Mr. Dunn stated that neither Senator Steinberg nor his Chief of Staff were available to attend today's meeting due to scheduling conflicts and due to the fact that representatives of the principle sponsor of the bill, the League of Conservation Voters, are not available until mid-April. This will delay continuation of negotiations until that time. Consequently, the bill will not move until May at the earliest and possibly not until later in the summer. Mr. Dunn stated that Senator Steinberg or a member of his staff is expected to speak at the May 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Regional Council. He assured the Committee that if the bill does move in May, it will have to go back to the Senate for concurrence and amendments, so there will be another opportunity for input at that time. Mr. Lieb stated that the League of Cities has circulated worksheets and other materials addressing the amendments they are seeking. He further stated that the League has requested that these materials not be circulated beyond the parties involved, but when they authorize consent to share the materials and their proposed amendments, he will provide them to the Committee members.

### **5.4**     State Tax Policy Effect on Local Land Use Decision Making

Hon. Jon Edney led the discussion on behalf of Hon. Carl Morehouse, and requested that the Committee consider whether or not SCAG is the proper agency to address this issue and does SCAG have the funding for it. Hon. Chris Norby stated that he believes SCAG is the perfect agency because many of its cities and counties have been negatively impacted by the fiscalization of land use. Hon. Norby suggested that a subcommittee be formed to define the goals of this effort and then bring it back to the Committee. Hon. Scott Malsin suggested that the subcommittee consider a work project that would be an expansion of the tipping point analysis tool kit. Hon Malsin stated that it would be a powerful tool if it addressed issues such as property tax share, local taxes, utility user taxes, and property values. Hon. Edney stated that the goal is to provide a superior financing structure for better well-built communities. Hon. Edney further stated that he will consult with President Ovitt to discuss establishing the subcommittee. In the



meantime, he suggested working with staff to establish an estimated cost so that it can be included in the 08-09 budget. He asked for volunteers to serve on the subcommittee. Hon. Chris Norby, Hon. Scott Malsin, Hon. Paula Lantz, Hon. Diane Dubois, and Hon. Deborah Robertson volunteered. Hon. Edney stated that he was certain Hon. Morehouse would want to serve on the subcommittee also. Hon. Edney requested that this item be brought back to the May meeting to form the subcommittee.

#### **5.5 Venture Capital Investment in the SCAG Region**

Elizabeth Delgado, Associate Planner, provided an analysis of Venture Capital Investments in the SCAG region, as part of the economic trends that feed into the growth forecast. Ms. Delgado stated that since 1995, over \$24.6 billion has been invested in the SCAG region from various venture capital sources, and further stated that the top 4 industries in terms of venture capital investments received in the SCAG region are: Media and Entertainment (\$3.9 billion), Software (\$3.5 billion), Telecommunications (\$2.8 billion), and Medical Devices (\$1.7 billion). Ms. Delgado stated that the next step is to continue to update the data on a quarterly basis and provide an economic development analysis.

#### **5.6 Compass Blueprint Public Outreach Strategy**

Pria Hidisyan, Senior Regional Planner, stated that as part of the work program this year, staff has been updating the marketing and website of the Compass Blueprint Program. Ms. Hidisyan stated that the process began by focusing on the evolution of the Compass Blueprint Program, looking at the categories and policy areas, and recognizing that Compass Blueprint serves many groups, including elected officials, the state, city staff, the development community, and the general public. Ms. Hidisyan stated that the Compass Blueprint Program is about building partnerships and serving communities. Ms. Hidisyan presented a mock up of the proposed home page of the new website. She stated that the new website design will provide more interactive tools, such as videos and tutorials. The current tools will be expanded so they cover more policy areas such as carbon foot printing. The website will include a map of demonstration projects, and will offer the capability of clicking on a particular project to find more information on the project and the city. Ms. Hidisyan presented the new logo for Compass Blueprint, along with the new slogan -- building partnerships, serving communities. Ms. Hidisyan stated that the new website and new marketing concepts will be unveiled at the Regional Housing Summit on May 21st, which will incorporate the Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards.

Several Committee members requested that, if possible, the old logo be incorporated with the new logo. Examples will be presented at a future meeting.

Hon. Deborah Robertson made a second request for Toolbox Thursdays, to be held in the inland areas and various counties.

**6.0 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair reminded the Committee of two upcoming events: the RCP workshop on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Huntington Beach Public Library and the Regional Housing Summit on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Mission Inn in Riverside.

**7.0 STAFF REPORT**

Joann Africa, Deputy Chief Counsel, presented an update on the RHNA litigation. Ms. Africa stated that the cities of Palmdale, La Mirada, and Irvine filed lawsuits against SCAG. The La Mirada and Palmdale lawsuits were filed in Los Angeles County and were dismissed by the same judge on the basis of the current RHNA statute and the housing element statutory scheme. La Mirada has appealed the judges ruling and the case is now pending before the Court of Appeals. The Irvine lawsuit was filed in Orange County. SCAG is also seeking to have the Irvine case dismissed and a hearing is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**8.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Hon. Tim Jasper requested that Review of the Compass Blueprint Demonstration Project Selection Process return on a future agenda.

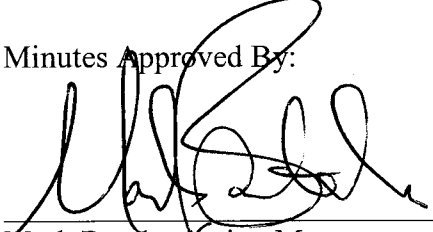
**9.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Hon. Coerper reminded the Committee that the Police Officers Memorial is being held on May 8<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. Hon. Coerper encouraged support of the event and will send out more information to the Committee members.

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Hon. Edney adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Minutes Approved By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Butala, Acting Manager  
Community Development

## 2008

**\*Regional Council Member**

# REPORT

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**DATE:** May 8, 2008

**TO:** Regional Council  
Community, Economic & Human Development (CEHD) Committee

**FROM:** Benchmarks Task Force  
Ping Chang, Program Manager, (213) 236-1839, [chang@scag.ca.gov](mailto:chang@scag.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** State of the Region Publication Schedule

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:**



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## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Publish the State of the Region Report and Report Card every two years instead of annually.
2. Publish the guest essays separately on an annual basis.

## BACKGROUND:

Since 1998, SCAG has been publishing an annual State of the Region Report, and with the exception of 1998, an annual Report Card. The preparation of the Report and Report Card has been under the guidance of the Benchmarks Task Force (current membership is included in Attachment 1). Each year's report release through a press conference has received prominent media coverage, and the State of the Region also received the 2006 PRISM Award and the 2007 Communicator Award. A summary of the annual State of the Region program is included in Attachment 2 containing key program features such as program objectives, intended audiences, report preparation, dissemination and utilization. The 2007 Report released at the end of last year was the tenth State of the Region.

At its March 24, 2008 meeting, the Benchmarks Task Force reviewed recent accomplishments and took actions to recommend a new State of the Region publication schedule. A primary objective of the recommendation is to move the State of the Region Program forward in a more effective way in light of the feedback received and the significant staff reductions.

A comment received over the past year focused on the fact that the Report Card grades generally do not change significantly every year and hence there might not be a need to publish the Report and Report Card every year. The Report Card has always consisted of the same seven issue categories: employment, income, housing, mobility, air quality, education and public safety. Since 1999, seven out of the nine report cards have less than half of the categories experiencing some grade changes from the previous year (Attachment 3). *The Benchmarks Task Force recommended publishing the report and report cards every two years instead of annually so that cumulative changes would be more likely to be detected.* Task Force members were also sensitive to the important need to report about the state of the region, and would not consider a report cycle that is longer than two years.

In addition, Task Force members found that guest essays are of high quality and should receive more attention and be utilized more. Each State of the Region Report contains two to three guest essays

# REPORT

focusing on strategic regional issues. Guest essays have been an important part of the annual State of the Region Report. The essays, authored by experts in the respective fields, examine selected strategic regional issues, and explore the underlying factors and dynamics affecting the issues. Most essays also discuss policy implications or furnish specific policy recommendations to move the region forward. A list of all State of the Region guest essays published to-date is included in Attachment 3. *The Benchmarks Task Force recommended publishing the guest essays separately on an annual basis.* The Task Force will continue to discuss the specifics in maximizing the effectiveness to publish guest essays annually. With a recommended two-year cycle for the Report and Report Card, publishing guest essays separately on an annual basis would continue to highlight timely important regional issues and policy recommendations.

Another comment focused on the need to further improve the Report Card grades development process and methodology. It should be noted that after the adoption of the new Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP), currently scheduled for October/November 2008, the State of the Region will also begin to track the performance indicators contained in the new RCP. This will then affect the Report Card grades development since there will be new performance indicators and likely additional issue categories. It will also involve additional research and data development to quantify the new performance indicators. Staff is envisioning a phased approach to incorporate the additional RCP performance indicators into the State of the Region Report Card. Staff will bring forth to the Benchmarks Task Force discussions on further improvements to the Report Card content and development process. The items subject to future discussions for Report Card improvement include, for example, the following

- Issue categories included in the Report Card
  - may consider additional issue categories (e.g. energy, land use, water resources, solid waste, emergency preparedness, open space/habitat)
  - may consider reorganizing the existing issue categories
- Process for Report Card development
  - how to further enhance the grading objectivity
  - how to have more transparency in the process
  - how to involve more stakeholders in the process
- Additional guidelines with refined methodologies for grading
  - the need to develop more explicit criteria to support the respective grading
  - may need to reassess the current grade structure
  - consider the level of service burdens the region has incurred  
(For example, about 40% of the nation's imports go through our region's ports and highway/rail system. This disproportionate burden should be considered when grading our progress.)


# REPORT

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## FISCAL IMPACTS:

Publish the State of the Region Report and Report Card every two years while publishing the guest essays separately on an annual basis would not generate any additional fiscal impacts.


Reviewed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Division Manager*

Reviewed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Department Director*

Reviewed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief Financial Officer*

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Benchmarks Task Force Membership (May 2008)

Hon. Ronald O. Loveridge, Mayor, City of Riverside, Task Force Chair  
Hon. Debbie Cook, Mayor, City of Huntington Beach, Task Force Vice Chair  
Hon. Mona Field, Board of Trustees, Los Angeles Community College District  
Hon. Larry McCallon, Councilmember, City of Highland  
Hon. Paul M. Nowatka, Councilmember, City of Torrance  
Hon. Chris Norby, Supervisor, Orange County  
Hon. Pam O'Connor, Councilmember, City of Santa Monica  
Hon. Toni Young, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Port Hueneme  
Rick Bishop, Western Riverside Council of Governments  
Kimberly Collins, San Diego State University (Imperial Valley Campus)  
Barry Engelberg, Orange County Transportation Authority  
Fernando Guerra, Loyola Marymount University  
Lamont "Monty" Hempel, University of Redlands  
Dean Kubani, City of Santa Monica Environmental and Public Works  
Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza, Environmental Defense  
Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, University of California, Los Angeles  
Dowell Myers, University of Southern California  
Todd Priest, Building Industry Association of Southern California  
Anil Puri, California State University, Fullerton  
Ty Schuiling, San Bernardino Associated Governments  
Arthur J. Shaw, Consulting Economist  
Arnold Sherwood, University of California, Berkeley  
Jim Stewart, Southern California Council on Environment and Development  
Goetz Wolff, Center for Regional Employment Strategies and UCLA

## ATTACHMENT 2

### **The State of the Region Program A Brief Description of the Objectives and Annual Process**

#### **Objectives**

1. Tracking and assessing the performance of Southern California in comparison to other metropolitan regions in the nation.
2. Disseminating information on the region's performance to assist public officials, business and community leaders in developing appropriate strategies to improve our communities.
3. Informing and educating community residents on how our region is performing.

#### **Intended Audiences**

1. Elected officials at local, state and federal levels
2. Business and community leaders
3. Key agency staff including local government chief administrative officers and planning directors
4. Other key stakeholders and partners in regional planning
5. Community groups and residents

#### **Report Preparation, Dissemination and Utilization**

1. With the guidance of the Benchmarks Task Force, which consists of elected officials and issue expert representatives in the region, SCAG staff collected and analyzed information regarding the performance of the region. Regional performance was assessed with respect to issues including demography, economy, housing, transportation, environment, education and public safety. A Report titled "*The State of the Region*" is then prepared and released around December each year through a press conference.
2. A total of 1,500 copies of *The State of the Region* and 3,500 copies of the *Report Cards* have been distributed after press release to many interested parties, including, for example:
  - Regional Council and Policy Committee members including more than 100 elected officials;
  - Chief County and City Administrators of 193 local governments in the region;
  - local government planning directors;
  - members of the state and congressional delegations; and
  - regional public libraries.
3. Each year, the complete Report and Report Card are posted on SCAG's home page ([www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)) upon press release. Over the past five years, total downloads of the report have increased from about 30,000 to 80,000.



4. For at least the past five years, the press conference to release *The State of the Region* has received very prominent media coverage throughout Southern California and beyond. Report coverage generally includes 25 newspapers (including outside of the region), 5 or more TV and radio stations respectively. Specifically, newspaper coverage generally includes the following:
  - Los Angeles Times
  - Los Angeles Daily News
  - Orange County Register
  - Riverside Press Enterprise
  - San Bernardino County Sun
  - Inland Valley Daily Bulletin
  - Antelope Valley Press
  - Hi-Desert Star
  - Los Angeles Business Journal
  - Long Beach Press Telegram
  - North County Times
  - Pasadena Independent
  - San Gabriel Valley Tribune
  - South Bay Daily Breeze
  - Victor Valley Daily Press
  - Korean Times
  - La Opinion
  - China Press
  - Chinese Daily News
  - Sing Tao Daily
  - San Jose Mercury News
  - San Diego Tribune
  - Merced News
  - Sacramento Bee
5. In addition to the media coverage, SCAG staff has also received invitations and made presentations to public and private organizations in the region on an on-going basis.
6. *The State of the Region* has been used as course materials in universities such as UCLA, UC Riverside and University of Southern California.
7. *The State of the Region* was identified by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in its report to the Congress in 2004 as one of the few regional indicator initiatives containing a comprehensive indicator system (GAO Report - *Informing Our Nation: Improving How to Understand and Assess the USA's Position and Progress*, November 2004).
8. *The State of the Region* has received the 2006 PRISM Award and the 2007 Communicator Award for its impacts on community awareness.

# REPORT

## ATTACHMENT 3

### Summary of State of the Region Report Card Grades, 1998 - 2006

	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
<b>Employment</b>	B-	A-	B+	B	B-	B	B	B	B
<b>Income</b>	C+	C+	C	C	C-	C-	C	C	C
<b>Housing</b>	C-	C-	C-	D+	D+	D	D	D	D
<b>Mobility</b>	D	D	D	D	D-	D-	F	F	D-
<b>Air Quality</b>	C	B-	B	B-	C	C-	C	C	D
<b>Education</b>	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D-
<b>Public Safety</b>	B	B+	B+	B	B	B	B	B	B

## ATTACHMENT 4

### State of the Region Guest Essays, 1998-2007

Year	Essay Title	Author/Organization
2007	TODs for Southern California: Challenges and Prospects	Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris UCLA
	The Southern California Survey 2007: Continuities, Changes, and More Diversified Opinions about Quality of Life	Kim Haselhoff/UCLA Paul Ong/UCLA
	Air Quality and Health in the Greater Los Angeles Area: A Region in Crisis	Ed Avol/USC
2006	Demographic Change in the SCAG Region, 1970-2005	John Pitkin/USC
	The Southern California Public Opinion Survey 2006: Concerns Amid Satisfaction	Kim Haselhoff/UCLA Paul Ong/UCLA
	The Energy Densive Economy: Challenges Ahead for Local Government	Ronald Cooke/Energy Expert
2005	The 2% Strategy: A Bold New Approach to Shape the Future of Southern California	Randall Lewis/ Lewis Operating Co.
	Goods Movement in Southern California: Challenge, Opportunity, Solution	John Husing Economics & Politics, Inc.
2004	Introduction: The Six Degrees of Regional Planning	Rick Bishop/WRCOG
	Is the 2% Strategy a Solution for Southern California	Bill Fulton/Solimar Research & USC
	Air Quality in Southern California: Time for a Paradigm Shift	Arthur Winer/UCLA
2003	The "Commons" in Southern California	John Fregoneses Fregonese Calthorpe Associates
2002	N/A (The report focused on assessing the 1990-2000 decade in addition to the annual change)	N/A
2001	Southern California's Divergent Growth Patterns and Future Prospects	David Friedman /New American Foundation
	Housing Southern California: Smart Growth Strategies for a New Era	Michell Menzer /ULI
	Energy Crisis in Southern California	Nancy Day/Energy Advisor Steve Eric/UCSD

# REPORT

2000	Approaching Middle Age: Re-Defining the Southern California Metropolis	Bill Fulton/Solimar Research & USC
	The Widening Divide Revisited: Inequality in the Labor Market	Paul Ong/UCLA
	Ecological Footprints and Regional Sustainability	Ana Rosenbluth/USC
1999	The Southern California Economy: Growing Again, Challenges Ahead	Steve Levy/Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy
	The State of the Region - Transportation	Genevieve Giuliano/USC
	Educational Trends and Issues in Southern California	Barry Stern/ Public Performance Information Systems
1998	N/A (Inaugural Issue)	N/A



## **Regional Council CEHD Policy Committee**

**May 8, 2008**

Ping Chang (chang@scag.ca.gov)  
Program Manager  
Performance Assessment & Monitoring  
Program Development & Evaluation Division

**Southern California Association of Governments**



## **State of the Region**

- Background on Annual Report/Report Card Process
  - Objectives
  - Intended audiences
  - Report preparation, dissemination and utilization
  - Recognitions received include:
    - 2004 - U.S. GAO report to the Congress
    - 2006 - PRISM Award
    - 2007 - Communicator Award

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## Report Publication Schedule

- **Recommended Action:**

1. Publish the State of the Region Report and Report Card every two years instead of annually.
2. Publish the guest essays separately on an annual basis.

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## Report Publication Schedule

### An Objective of the Recommendation

- Move the State of the Region Program forward in a more effective way in light of the feedback received and the significant staff reductions.

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## Report Publication Schedule

- Report Card grades generally change little over a one-year period

	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
Employment	B-	A-	B+	B	B-	B	B	B	B
Income	C+	C+	C	C	C-	C-	C	C	C
Housing	C-	C-	C-	D+	D+	D	D	D	D
Mobility	D	D	D	D	D-	D-	F	F	D-
Air Quality	C	B-	B	B-	C	C-	C	C	D
Education	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D-
Public Safety	B	B+	B+	B	B	B	B	B	B

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## Report Publication Schedule

- A two-year cycle for publishing report and report card would be more likely to detect cumulative changes than reporting annually.

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## **Guest Essay Publication Schedule**

- The guest essays contained in the report that address strategic regional issues are of high quality and should receive more attention and be utilized more.

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## **Guest Essay Publication Schedule**

- Publish the guest essays separately on an annual basis would continue to highlight timely important regional issues and policy implications.

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# REPORT

DATE: May 8, 2008

TO: Community, Economic & Human Development Committee

FROM: Jeffrey S. Dunn, Government Affairs Analyst, Ext. 880, dunn@scag.ca.gov  
Jacob Lieb, Program Manager, Ext. 921, lieb@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Summary and Status of SB 375

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



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## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review summary of SB 375 and provide direction and guidance to staff on further actions if any.

## BACKGROUND:

SB 375 was introduced in 2007 primarily as a CEQA streamlining measure, but through a series of amendments has become an implementation bill for AB 32 (Nunez), the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 which tasks the California Air Resources Board (CARB) with the job of developing a plan to establish a regulatory and market strategy to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

SB 375 would require the CARB to establish regional targets specifically for the reduction of GHG emissions from light trucks and automobiles estimated to contribute 30 percent of all GHG emissions. These targets would be established in consultation with regional transportation planning agencies. The bill creates a mandatory planning process for regional transportation planning agencies. While there are no direct or explicit requirements at the local level, some indirect consequences are possible.

### Growth Component of SB 375

SB 375 would rely on long-range transportation plans to meet targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the automobile and light truck transportation sector. Specifically the bill would require that regional transportation plans for certain regions include a sustainable communities strategy (SCS) to achieve these reductions. Regions would be required to follow specific provisions—very similar to regional blueprint processes—to determine both areas of preferred growth and protected significant resource areas and significant farmland following smart growth patterns. The primary goal being the reduction of vehicle miles traveled by providing housing choices and development that is in close proximity to transportation choices.

The bill specifically requires that the strategy within the RTP identify sufficient areas for growth to house all economic segments of the population and employment growth over the course of the planning period. The bill contains priorities for establishing these growth areas, with housing and job growth areas initially designated as follows:

- Infill and redevelopment in existing urbanized areas and any areas within spheres of influence as of July 1, 2007, and
- Vacant or substantially undeveloped areas adjacent to an existing or reasonably foreseeable planned development area, excluding significant resource or significant farmlands.

If it is not feasible to accommodate growth in the areas identified above then the following areas would be available, but would require identification of mitigation measures by the regional transportation planning agency:

- Vacant lands or substantially undeveloped lands adjacent to an existing or reasonably foreseeable planned development or land within a city sphere of influence that is subject to conservation or agricultural easements, under Williamson Act contract, open space, or land for endangered species;
- Vacant lands or substantially undeveloped lands adjacent to an existing or reasonably foreseeable planned development or land within a city sphere of influence that is habitat for candidate, fully protected, sensitive, or species of special status as specified, and;
- Other areas except publicly owned parks and open space and habitat areas protected by natural community conservation plans.

Thus, the SCS sets out a specific growth planning approach to establishing preferred growth areas, as well as areas for protection within a region. While SB 375 does not stop growth outside of the preferred growth areas identified in the SCS, this growth element of the RTP assists regional agencies in targeting transportation investments.

### Local Government Stakeholder Negotiations Over Growth Component

The League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, and other local government representatives have maintained on-going discussions with the bill's sponsor to clarify and resolve issues concerning the GHG emissions reductions requirements and the land-use provisions of SB 375. The following proposals have been offered by local government in various forms and have received favorable response from the sponsor. Discussions on these and other proposals are ongoing:

#### 1. Regional targets for cars/light trucks to reduce GHG emissions:

- Assure that in assigning targets, CARB must first consider reductions that can be made from more traditional emissions control mechanisms, such as improved fuel efficiency and use of low carbon fuels
- Make sure that the process for establishing these targets will be consistent with other CARB work under AB 32.

#### 2. SCS: Prioritizing Areas For Growth:

- Clarify that land designated for growth and development with HCPs or NCCPs may also be designated as first level priority growth areas:

- Clarify that land within sphere adjacent to existing or reasonably foreseeable planned development that does not have significant resource areas is included within initial feasibility area;
- Assure that mitigation efforts are focused on the GHG purposes of the bill.

NOTE: There have been numerous proposals by local government to add alternative processes, in lieu of the SCS, for regions that engage a regional process that develops a regional plan for resource protection. These proposals have been rejected by the sponsor thus far.

### 3. Process to Adopt SCS:

- Before developing the first draft of SCS, RTPA must hold a workshop in each county for local officials; and after developing draft hold a public hearing in each county. Final draft shall include a section that responds to comments;
- Final SCS may be adopted 90 days after adoption of final draft. Where each city and county is not specifically represented on RTPA board, SCS may be rejected if a majority of cities and counties in region representing a majority of the population of the region file a written statement objecting to the adoption of SCS.
- Allow for county or subregional level preparation of the SCS. Language has been proposed that would allow for subregional entities or counties together with cities within the county to prepare the SCS. This provision, as currently, discussed is limited to the SCAG region, and needs clarification as to how it would be implemented.

### Grandfathering of Transportation “Pipeline” Projects

Local transportation commissions have expressed significant concerns with the bill on various issues, including the possibility of being held prospectively accountable statutorily to emissions reductions guidelines that have not yet been developed. Additionally, commissions are concerned with exempting pipeline projects, particularly those whose funding has been approved by voters through passage of local sales tax measures. The current version of SB 375 includes a consistency requirement for transportation projects, and reads,

*‘Projects programmed for funding on or before December 31, 2011, are not required to be consistent with the sustainable communities strategy if they (i) are contained in 2007 or 2009 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, (ii) are funded pursuant to Chapter 12.49 (commencing with Section 8879.20) of Division 1 of Title 2, or (iii) were specifically listed in a ballot measure prior to December 31, 2006, approving a sales tax increase for transportation projects.’*

All participants in the statewide negotiations have had difficulty in crafting language that would protect or exempt existing projects or funding streams. SCAG staff participating in statewide negotiations have recognized the particular difficulty and importance of this issue, but have not been able to advocate any specific solution due to the lack of an agreed upon approach among county transportation commissions in the SCAG region.

# REPORT

## RHNA

The only change in SB 375 to ensure consistency between the SCS identification of areas for housing growth and the allocation of RHNA is to require a region's housing need to reflect a feasible balance between jobs and housing, using the employment projections in the RTP. The timing for housing element revisions and RTPs remain out of synchronization as well, creating difficulties in aligning the planning processes and assumptions. Local government is proposing language to sync the RHNA process with the planning process, though this has not yet been accepted by the bill's sponsor.

## CEQA

The bill contains CEQA provisions that are intended to serve as an incentive for local agencies to amend their General Plans consistent with the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy. These provisions would allow that certain types of development projects subject to CEQA could move forward with a streamlined CEQA review. While there is some question as to whether these provisions would in fact provide a tangible incentive in many circumstances, no parties have raised specific objections to this portion of the bill, and there are not active negotiations.

## Sustainable Communities Supplement

The bill allows that in cases where the mandated RTP cannot meet the target established for Greenhouse Gases, that the RTPA would prepare a Supplement to the Strategy that would identify measures that would allow the target to be met. This Supplement would be separate from the RTP and would consist of policies outside of the direct authority of the regional agency. As such, there is little objection or on-going discussion regarding the inclusion of the Supplement as a provision of the bill.

## On-going Issues and Negotiations

The bill's sponsor and local government entities are engaged in continuing discussions to reach agreement issues a number of issues upon which the parties' are still somewhat far apart, including land-use/SCS, GHG emissions reductions, transportation project consistency, RHNA, and others. Accordingly, the author states his intention not to move the bill prior to May, and possibly later in the summer. SCAG staff is participating in these discussions to provide factual input as well as its best faith effort to explain likely implementation processes or procedures made by SCAG should the bill's provisions become law.

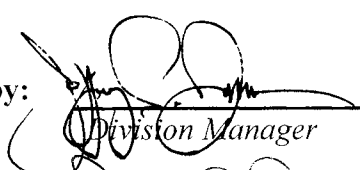
## FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

# REPORT

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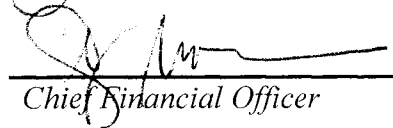
Reviewed by:

  
Division Manager

Reviewed by:

  
Department Director

Reviewed by:

  
Chief Financial Officer